

The Growth of Britain's Railways

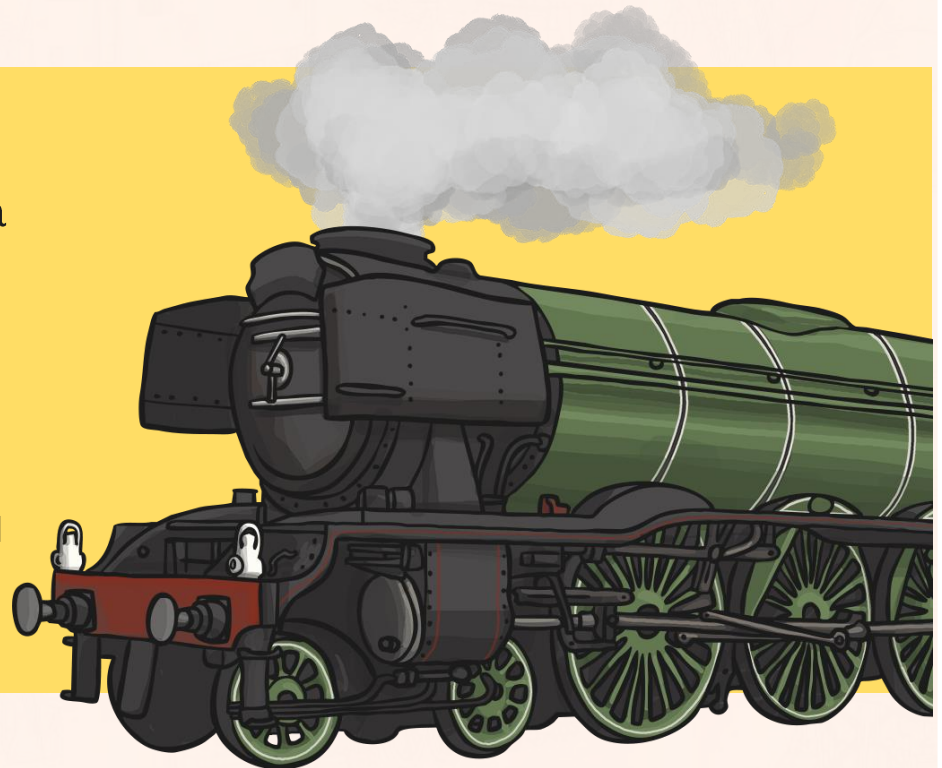


The Growth of the Railways

After the success and promotion of steam locomotives and the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Line in 1830, the people of Britain were gripped by railway fever. Soon, private companies were opening hundreds of railway lines around the country and the development of the railways was booming.

Railway Mania

The 1840s saw the biggest growth in the railways. Hundreds of new railway lines were planned and companies sought to make lots of money by opening their own railway lines. Many new laws and regulations were introduced during this time to make sure that the railways were safe to travel on.



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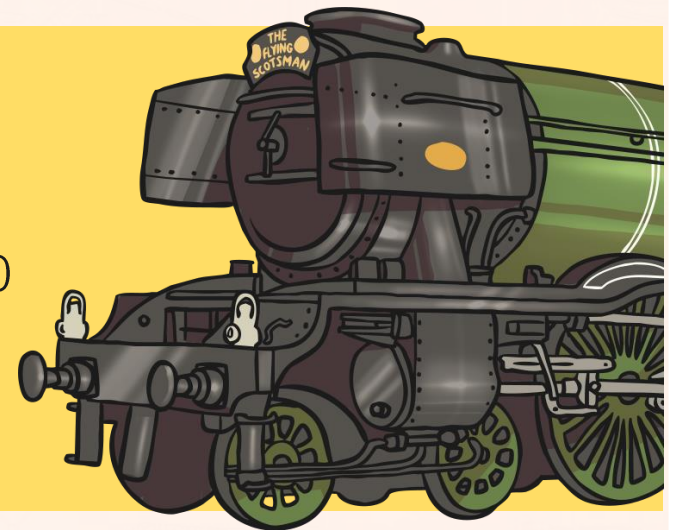
The Big Four

At the start of World War 1 (1914 – 1918) the government took control of all the railways in Great Britain and this continued until 1921.

From 1st January 1923, all the railway lines in Great Britain were grouped into four main companies.

The Big Four

1. Great Western Railway (GWR)
2. London, Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS)
3. London and North Eastern Railway (LNER)
4. Southern Railway (SR)



The Growth of the Railways Nationalisation

In 1948, all the railways were nationalised. This means that the government controlled and managed them. The Big Four were then merged together to form British Railways (Later called just British Rail).

Although many of the main railway lines remained, lots of smaller ones were closed down because they were not making enough money.



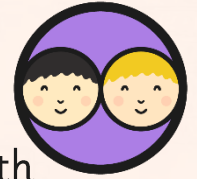
The Growth of the Railways Privatisation

Between 1994 and 1997, British Rail was privatised. This means that it was no longer run and managed by the government but by a larger number of smaller companies who bought a share in it.

Since privatisation, most of the railway lines in Great Britain remain the same, but some new ones have also opened.



The Railway Network



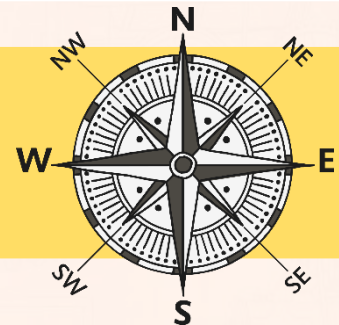
The railway lines of Great Britain run in within their own regions (e.g. South West) and also across different regions, linking up with most of the country across the whole network.

Based on the location of the cities they visit, can you work out which main railway lines are which from the list below? Use a map of Great Britain and look at the compass to help you.

Railway Line	Some Cities They Visit
East Coast Main Line	London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow
Cross Country Route	London, Leeds, York, Darlington, Newcastle, Edinburgh
West Coast Main Line	Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, York

Challenge

Which line do you think the Flying Scotsman Express Passenger Service runs on? Click [here](#) to reveal the answer.



The Stockton to Darlington Railway Line

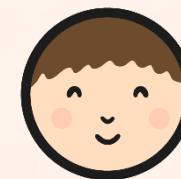


The Stockton to Darlington railway line was the first ever passenger carrying line. It is shown marked in black on this map. The red lines show some of the railway lines as they are today.



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Great Britain's Railway Network



Activity 1

Write the fact cards out showing the growth and changes to Great Britain's Railway network and put them in chronological order to create a timeline.

Activity 2

Locate the main stations on the different railway lines and add them to your map of Great Britain. Remember to use a different colour for each railway line and write a key to show the different railway lines you have marked on your map.

Activity 1

Cut out the fact cards below and place them in chronological order to create a timeline showing the growth and changes of Great Britain's railway network.

1914 - 1923 During and after World War 1, the government took control of all Great Britain's railways.	1948 The Railways were nationalised (government controlled). The Big Four were merged together to form British Rail.	1994 - 1997 British Rail was privatised (sold off to different companies).
1807 The Oystermouth Railway was the first passenger carrying line using horses to pull carriages.	1700s - early 1800s Horses pulled mine carts along tracks in the coal mines.	1830 The Liverpool and Manchester Railway line opened.
1825 The Stockton to Darlington Railway was the first passenger carrying line using steam engines to pull carriages.	1840s Railway Mania! Lots of new railway companies were set up and new lines were built.	1923 Great Britain's 120 railway lines were grouped into 'The Big Four' (four main railway companies).

Activity 2

Locate the main cities on the railway lines and then mark the railway line on your Map of Great Britain. Remember to use a different colour or pattern for each railway line and write a key to show the different railway lines you have marked on your map.

Line	Some Main Stations
Liverpool to Manchester Railway Line	Liverpool, Rainhill, Manchester
East Coast Main Line (The Flying Scotsman Express Passenger Service)	London, Leeds, York, Darlington, Newcastle, Edinburgh
West Coast Main Line	London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow
Cross Country Route	Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, York

